



Media Release

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## Take Care on the Roads over Holiday Weekends

Selwyn motorists should prepare for busy roads with two holiday weekends occurring in the coming weeks.

Selwyn Road Safety Coordinator Ngaire Tinning says that holiday weekends such as Labour Weekend and Canterbury Anniversary (Show Day) weekend normally bring higher traffic volumes and many caravans, trailers, motorhomes and boats will also be out on the road.

“With many vehicles on the roads it is important that motorists be considerate of other drivers,” says Mrs Tinning. “It is likely to take longer than normal to get to your destination so drivers need to be patient and also allow extra time for travelling.”

If you are towing, your maximum speed limit on the open road is 90 kilometres per hour. If traffic builds up behind you, pull over regularly where it’s safe to do so and let other vehicles pass.

Holiday driving often means spending several hours behind the wheel. Fatigue can be dangerous but there are some simple ways to improve your alertness.

- Plan your trip ahead of time. Allow extra time to get to your destination and plan to take regular meal and rests breaks to help you stay alert. It’s also a good idea to share the driving with someone else if you can
- Get plenty of sleep before you leave and drive at a time of day when you are awake
- Use air conditioning if your vehicle has this or wind down the window if you don’t. Fresh air will help you stay awake and keep calm

“People also need to take extra care and be patient at intersections,” says Mrs Tinning. “Following the road rules is always important, but with more vehicles on the roads during holiday weekends the chances of being involved in a crash rise if you don’t obey road signs.”

When approaching a give way sign you need to slow down and be prepared to stop and give way to other road users. A stop sign requires you to come to a complete stop, then check for traffic and give way if you need to. Indicating your intention to turn, change lanes or pull over early is essential and can help to avoid a crash.

Wearing a safety belt is also important to protect yourself and your passengers as it reduces the risk of serious injury by 40 percent. Drivers are required by law to make sure that children under 15 years old are wearing a safety belt or are in an approved child seat suitable for their size and weight. A fine can be imposed if children are not restrained properly.

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